

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01

COME-00 DLOS-03 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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R 251501Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4919

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ENRG, EGEN, EC

SUBJ: REACTION TO AMBASSADOR BREWSTER'S SPEECH

1. THE FIRST PUBLIC SPEECH BY A U.S. CHIEF OF MISSION IN ECUADOR IN EIGHT YEARS STIMULATED MEDIA AND PUBLIC REACTION THAT WAS BOTH SUBSTANTIAL AND POSITIVE. THE ADDRESS IN SPANISH, BY AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. BREWSTER, TO THE ECUADOREAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON MARCH 19 DEALT WITH GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND SPECIFIC POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES ON LOS AND THE TRADE REFORM ACT.

2. ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS COVERED THE SPEECH ON PAGE ONE, AND EL UNIVERSO OF GUAYAQUIL, THE LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY IN COUNTRY

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QUOTED AMBASSADORS ENTIRE TEXT. RADIO STATIONS

RECEIVED USIS TAPES OF KEY PASSAGES, AND TELEVISION NEWS-CASTS ALSO CARRIED REPORTS, ALTHOUGH FILMED COVERAGE WAS RESTRICTED TO INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

3. FAVORABLE EDITORIALS WERE PUBLISHED MARCH 21 IN THE TWO MAJOR ECUADOREAN NEWSPAPERS, EL UNIVERSO AND EL COMERCIO OF QUITO. IN THE CASE OF THE LATTER PUBLICATION, IT REPRESENTED SOMETHING OF AN EDITORIAL ABOUT-FACE, SINCE THE NEWSPAPER EARLIER HAD TAKEN THE POSITION THAT ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS THAT IT WOULD SEEK AMENDMENTS TO THE TRA WERE ONLY EMPTY PROMISES.

4. EL UNIVERSO'S EDITORIAL HEADLINED "CONCILIATORY POSITIONS" NEVERTHELESS MISSED AN IMPORTANT POINT OF THE SPEECH, STATING THAT ECUADOREAN IMPORTS LOST ONCE-HELD PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE TRA. HOWEVER, THE OVERALL CONTENT OF THE EDITORIAL MORE THAN MADE UP FOR THIS ERROR. BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOWS.

5. "EVERYTHING POINTS TOWARD AND ELIMINATION OF THE DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE COME UP BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE TERRITORIAL SEA AND THE TRADE REFORM ACT, SERENELY AND WITHOUT LEAVING RESENTMENTS THAT COULD BE THE SPARK FOR OTHER DISAGREEABLE SITUATIONS.

6. "WHATEVER CAN BE DONE TO STRENGTHEN HARMONY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MUST BE REGARDED AND RECEIVED WITH SATISFACTION, SINCE IN A WORLD SO DIVIDED AS IT IS NOW, ANY STEP TAKEN TOWARD MORE CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATES AND THEIR PEOPLES WILL BE A LANDMARK PLACED ON THE ROAD TO PEACE OR AN AUSPICIOUS ELEMENT OF HEALTHY UNDERSTANDING THAT CAN BE USED TO PLACATE ILL WILL IN OTHER AREAS OF THE PLANET.

7. "IN A SPEECH THE MAERICAN AMBASSADOR GAVE AT A LUNCHEON SESSION OF THE ECUADOREAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN QUITO, THE U.S. DIPLOMAT SPOKE WITH MASURED CONSIDERATION AND OBJECTIVITY AND AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT ABOUT THE POINTS THAT HAVE RECENTLY CREATED DISAGREEABLE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES. HE HAS DONE IT WITH SUCH LOYAL AMERICANIST SPIRIT THAT IT IS WELL WORTH TAKING HIS WORDS AS AN EXAMPLE OF VALUABLE COOPERATION AND AS A NORM OF CONDUCT TO STRIKE DOWN INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREJUDICES AND MAKE THIS AMERICA THE CONTINENT OF GREATER SPIRITUAL SOLIDARITY AND FRATERNAL RELATIONS.

8. "MR. BREWSTER SAID THAT, GIVEN THE STRONG TIES BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES, ANY AREA OF DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER IMPORTANT IT MAY SEEM AT THE MEMENT, IS TRANSITORY. IN OTHER WORDS, THE AMBASSADOR HAS NOT OVERESTIMATED THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE REGARDING PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT BOTH COUNTRIES

EQUALLY, BECAUSE IN SPITE OF THEM THERE HAS EXISTED AND EXISTS THE TRADITION OF HARMONY AND MUTUAL COLLABORATION, WHICH IS FUNDAMENTAL AND ETERNAL, AND BECAUSE SOMETHING CIRCUMSTANTIAL CANNOT EVER DESTROY WHAT HAS BEEN CEMENTED AND PERPETUATED BY YEARS OF UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THE EVOLUTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES.

9. "THEN, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE, THE U.S. DIPLOMAT INDICATED THAT REGARDING LAW OF THE SEA, IF A DEFINITIVE TREATY RATIFIED BY BOTH COUNTRIES IS REACHED, THE FISHERIES CONTROVERSY WHICH HAS LASTED FOR ALMOST A QUARTER OF A CENTURY WILL HAVE BEEN RESOLVED; AND THE LINE FOLLOWED SO FAR HAS GIVEN HOPE THAT SUCH A CONCLUSION WILL COME TO PASS. REGARDING THE TRADE REFORM ACT, THE SPEAKER, AFTER EXPLAINING THE OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THIS LAW, RATIFIED THE SENTIMENTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT FOR ELIMINATING THE RESTRICTIONS DAMAGING TO OUR COUNTRY WHICH DEPRIVE ITS EXPORTS TO THE NORTH OF THE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT THEY ENJOYED.

10. "THE SPEECH OF AMBASSADOR BREWSTER IS AN AUSPICIOUS ELEMENT FOR BUILDING HARMONY BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND ECUADOR, AND HAS BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED BY US AND PARTICULARLY AMONG THOSE WHO WISH TO MAINTAIN UNALTERABLE THE GOOD INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WE HAVE CULTIVATED WITH THE UNITED STATES."

11. THE EL COMERCIO EDITORIAL, HEADLINED "COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES," SAID ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES TO AMEND THE TRADE REFORM ACT DEMONSTRATED THAT IN NO WAY WERE OUR COUNTRIES

WRONG WHEN THEY PROTESTED ENERGETICALLY THE THREAT IMPLIED, IN PART AT LEAST, BY THE U.S. FOREIGN TRADE ACT."

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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12. "AMBASSADOR BREWSTER HAS STATED THAT WHATEVER DIFFERENCES THAT MAY EXIST BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES, OUR ASPIRATIONS ARE THE SAME AND MUST FOLLOW THE SAME PATH. THESE ARE, UNDOUBTEDLY, THE TERMS OF A POLICY CONCEIVED WITH A SPIRIT OF COMPREHENSION AND IN NO WAY OF BELLIGERANCE. WITH THIS BASE, AND IF ESSENTIALLY THE MEN WHO ARE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES AGREE WITH US AND UNDERSTAND OUR PURPOSES, WE CAN COME TO POSITIVE UNDERSTANDINGS.

13. "IN THE UNITED STATES IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF LENDING SUPPORT SO THAT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES DEVELOP THEMSELVES IN THE AREAS IN WHICH THEY ARE WEAK. IT IS ALSO A MATTER OF GAINING PRESTIGE AND MORAL FORCE IN THE WORLD, GAINING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE SMALL COUNTRIES WHICH IS IMPORTANT FOR THE LARGE COUNTRIES. IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BE HOPED THAT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES ACHIEVES THE AMENDMENTS THAT ARE ASKED AND ADVISED."

14. MOST OF THE NEWS COVERAGE FOLLOWED A USIS PRESS RELEASE ISSUED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE SPEECH. HOWEVER, LEFTIST EXPRESO OF GUAYAQUIL CHANGED A WORD SLIGHTLY TO CHANGE THE MEANING IN ITS PAGE ONE HEADLINE, SWITCHING "REGRETTED" TO "DEPLORABLE" (LAMENTADA TO LAMENTABLES). SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS ALSO CARRIED PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AMBASSADOR SPEAKING.

15. COMMENT: THE SPEECH HAD AN UNDENIABLE IMPACT. THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, RODRIGO VALDEZ, ATTENDED THE LUNCHEON, LATER CALLED THE EMBASSY TO REQUEST TEN COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT, AND HAS GIVEN COPIES TO MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY AS WELL AS THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR. A CHAMBER SPOKESMAN SAID MEMBERS SWAMPED HIM WITH LAUDATORY CALLS AFTER THE SPEECH. HUMBERTO VACA

GOMEZ, ACTING DIRECTOR OF EL COMERCIO AND THE AUTHOR OF A NUMBER OF SEVERELY ANTI-U.S. EDITORIALS, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THE SPEECH WAS "STUPENDOUS, VERY, VERY GOOD": HE PROBABLY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDITORIAL QUOTED ABOVE. THE DIRECTOR OF EL TIEMPO OF QUITO, ALTHOUGH NOT PRESENT AT THE LUNCH, SAID LATER HE HAD HEARD MANY ENTIRELY FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON THE SPEECH.

16. THE FAVORABLE REACTION WAS THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT BREAK IN CONTINUING CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS MOTIVES, AND THE FIRST SUBSTANTIAL EXPOSITION OF THE U.S. POLICY ON LOS, TRA, AND OTHER MATTERS TO APPEAR IN ECUADOREAN MEDIA IN MONTHS. WHILE ONE SPEECH CANNOT REVERSE A TIDE, PERHAPS IT HAS HELPED SET THE STAGE FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS IF ACTION IS TAKEN TO AMEND THE TRA AND IF CURRENT LOS INITIATIVES EVENTUALLY REACH A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

17. COMPLETE TEXT IN SPANISH WILL BE FOLLOWS.
BREWSTER

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